

REMARKS

The Office Action of July 7, 2003, and the Advisory Action of September 2, 2003 have been carefully considered.

It is noted that claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1 and 3-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the patent to Scherling.

Claims 9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Scherling in view of the patent to Conrad.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Scherling in view of the patent to Simington.

In view of the Examiner's rejections of the claims applicant has canceled claim 3 and amended claims 1, 4 and 10.

The amendment to claim 10 is to correct formal matters. In view of these changes it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph is overcome and should be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims now on file differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the constructions disclosed in the references.

Turning now to the references, and particularly to the patent to Scherling, it can be seen that this reference discloses a bridle bit having a center portion for placement in the horse's mouth, which center portion is made up of five parts so that it can flex in the horse's mouth. Scherling does not disclose a bit having a mouthpiece made of at most two parts, as in the presently claimed invention.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1 and 3-11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the above-discussed reference is overcome and should be withdrawn.

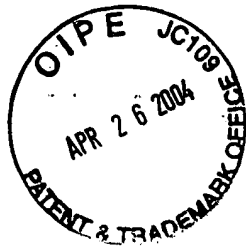
The patents to Conrad and Simington have also been considered.

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Since these references do not come closer to the currently claimed subject matter than the reference discussed above, it believed that any detailed comments thereon at this time would be superfluous. Neither of these references teach a bit having a mouthpiece consisting of at most two parts as in the presently claimed invention, together with the other features recited in independent claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections of claims 9-11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are overcome and should be withdrawn.

It is further submitted that no new issues are presented by the present amendments to the claims. The subject matter added to claim 1 was previously found in claims 3 and 4, and thus was already before the Examiner for consideration.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.



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Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on October 7, 2003.

By: *F. Kueffner*
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Date: October 7, 2003